

Appl. No. 09/595,256
Amdt. Dated November 11, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 12, 20004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A disposable diaper comprising:

- a topsheet;
- a backsheet;
- a front waist region extending between and to transversely opposite side edges of the disposable diaper;
- a rear waist region extending between and to the transversely opposite side edges of the diaper;
- a crotch region located longitudinally between the front waist region and the rear waist region;
- a waist-hole; and
- a pair of leg-holes, said diaper further comprising:
 - at least one of said front and rear waist regions including a covering zone formed integrally with said crotch region, said covering zone including a longitudinal end at which longitudinal ends

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of each of said topsheet and backsheet are superimposed together continuously between the transversely opposite side edges of the diaper without any intervening structure between the topsheet and backsheet, said covering zone further including a terminal longitudinal edge which coincides with terminal longitudinal edges of each of said topsheet and backsheet, said at least one of said front and rear waist regions further including an elastic zone extending continuously along a full length in a circumferentially direction of said at least one of said front and rear waist regions to define at least part of said waist-hole, said elastic zone having a width defined in a longitudinal direction and attached to said covering zone so that a major portion of the width of said elastic zone extends beyond the terminal longitudinal edge end of said covering zone; zone, said elastic zone being a separate and discrete element from each of said topsheet and said backsheet.

said elastic zone including a first member that is elastically stretchable in said circumferential direction of said at least one of said front and rear waist regions to a length greater than a transverse length of said covering zone, said first member extending between and to the transversely opposite side edges of the diaper, and a second member covering said first member, said second member also extending between and to the transversely opposite side edges of the diaper, and

said second member being inelastically stretchable to a length greater than the transverse length of said covering zone and attached to the longitudinal end of said covering zone so as to form gathers that extend along the entire length of said at least one of said front and rear waist regions in the circumferential direction between and to each of the opposite side edges of the diaper.

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Claim 2 (previously presented): The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said first member comprises at least one rubber ribbon.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said second member comprises a sheet material having an initial length greater than the length of said covering zone in said circumferential direction of said at least one of said front and rear waist regions and formed in said circumferential direction with gathers in order to shorten said sheet material substantially to said length of said covering zone.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said second member comprises a sheet material having a length substantially equal to the length of said covering zone in said circumferential direction of said at least one of said front and rear waist regions and inelastically stretchable in said circumferential direction.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said covering zone is non-stretchable in said circumferential direction of said at least one of said front and rear waist regions.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said covering zone is elastically stretchable in said circumferential direction and has a stretch stress higher than an stretch

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stress of said elastic zone when said elastic zone is stretched by 3-20% in a portion of said covering zone extending along said elastic zone and having a same width as said elastic zone.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein each of said leg-holes comprises a covering zone integral with said crotch region and a continuous elastic zone extending along a full length in a circumferential direction of each of said leg-holes, said elastic zone including a third member that is elastically stretchable in said circumferential direction of each of said leg-holes and a forth member securing and covering said third member, said fourth member being inelastically stretchable to a length greater than said length in said circumferential direction of each of said leg-holes and joined to an outer side edge of each of said leg-holes.